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Legacy
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Inside...

Thank you for your generous support of the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Endowment Fund and the printing of *Legacy*. These donations have made it possible for new research at SCIAA and to continue publishing *Legacy* twice a year. We continue to seek donations from the readership to continue the publication of *Legacy* and to build the ART Endowment. Thank you for your past donations. Please send the enclosed envelope to me indicating whether you want to continue receiving *Legacy*. Contributions will be appreciated. Please visit our website at: http://www.sc.edu/sciaa. Nena Rice, Editor, (nrice@sc.edu)

Mars Bluff Navy Yard

By Christopher Amer, Jonathan Leader, Larry Babits, and Lynn Harris

"The river appears to be falling." "Yeh, right." That optimistic exchange was often heard during the month-long maritime archaeology field school held at the site of the Confederate Mars Bluff Navy Yard earlier this summer. The unfortunate reality was that the Great Pee Dee River became ever higher day by day. For nigh on two years, the state of South Carolina had been in the throes of a drought, even up until two weeks before the commencement of the May field school. For most of that time, with the river being so low, we were unable to launch our survey boat much less conduct a remote sensing survey along the river in front of the site, the bottom of which is strewn with hewn timbers and cut logs from past logging operations and a plethora of drowned trees eroded from the river that lay just below the surface of the murky river (Fig. 2).

The path that led us to be anxiously hoping the river waters would recede began some 147 years earlier when Confederate naval officers selected Mars Bluff as the location upon which to erect a shipyard. Early in the conflict, the South had lost its important industrial and port services when Union forces took Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, and Norfolk. So, to counter the already large Union Navy, which was effectively blockading the 3,500 mile of southern coastline, on March 4, 1862, Secretary of the Confederate Navy, Stephen Mallory, ordered the immediate construction of naval yards on inland waters of the southern states. Mallory

See MARS BLUFF, Page 4

Fig. 1: Painting of CSS *Chattahoochee*. (*Courtesy of Bob Holcombe, the National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus, GA*)

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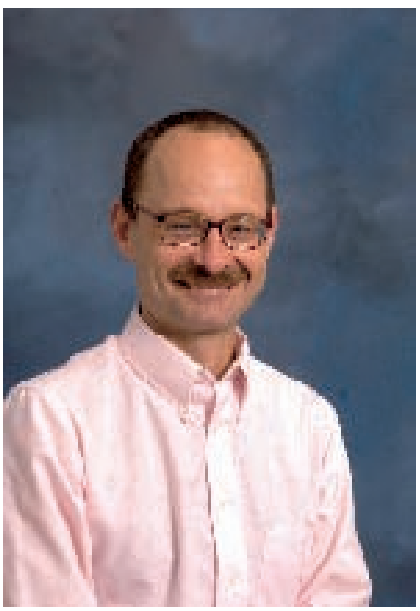
Director's

By Charles Cobb
SCIAA Director

One of the primary missions of SCIAA is educating the public about the rich historical and archaeological heritage of South Carolina. That is, of course, the reason behind *Legacy*, which Nena Rice now produces in beautiful color, to great effect. Earlier this year, I, along with other Chairs and Directors at USC, had to provide for the administration a number of annual summary statistics about our respective departments and institutes on campus. One number that stood out for SCIAA was 100—the number of talks that staff from the Institute gave around the state last year. After having been here two years I cannot play the "new kid" card any longer, but I still find myself occasionally unearthing pleasant new facts about SCIAA. I had suspected we got out a lot because it's impossible to reserve one of our vehicles on short notice, but to calculate the large number of presentations we actually gave last year was very gratifying.

We spend a fair amount of time at SCIAA discussing and debating the best ways for spreading the word about archaeology. The 100 presentations we gave last year actually don't reach that vast of an audience, but they are very effective because they physically place us with the folks of the state and allow for a more hands-on perspective on what we're doing. The settings vary greatly: Rotary club luncheons, elementary school classes, historical society meetings, and a number of other places. The box of traveling artifacts and the Powerpoint projector have now joined the trowel and shovel as essential parts of the archaeologist's toolkit. Nevertheless, we continue to explore every other option available for expedient ways of spreading knowledge about the past.



Charles Cobb, SCIAA Director (SCIAA photo)

As many of you know, Al Goodyear has been particularly effective at attracting various documentary teams to the Topper site. In July, we were treated to a *Time Team America* episode discussing the finds and controversies at Topper, a viewing that provided us nationwide exposure. What people don't know is that film projects usually entail some significant contributions from SCIAA as well. Many public television programs seek matching funding of some sort. Even for groups with their own funding, such as *Time Team America*, we try to pitch in with meals and other logistical support. We're not going to let a television crew from Pennsylvania, Oregon, or the United Kingdom leave the state without first making sure they are exposed to the local BBQ.

Because of their costs, high-profile documentaries do not occur every day. That is one reason why we're so grateful to the USC Office of Media Relations, particularly Peggy Binette and Margaret Lamb, who have diligently worked with us on press releases on our major projects so that we can reach every venue possible. Recently, my dad, who is an Air Force retiree, mailed me an article from the *Air Force Times* about the work Jon Leader and Chris Amer were doing on the CSS *Peedee* down by Florence earlier this summer. I can't think of better proof of how effective our Media Relations department has been than that.

The Archaeology Month poster is another printed form of educational material that has been very successful. This is truly a group enterprise in that the designer of the poster varies from year to year. In addition, in what is a novel twist on the South Carolina poster (most states produce some kind of Archaeology Month poster), the reverse side contains the text of key presentations on the topic of the year that were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) from researchers throughout the state. Every year about 10,000 of these are printed and widely distributed to schools, professional organizations, and just about every interested citizen who wants one.

We are particularly pleased that the 2008 poster, entitled *Native American Archaeology: Working Backward, Moving Forward*, received one of the ten Notable Document awards conferred annually by the South Carolina State Library. This poster was designed by Brittany Taylor and edited by Chris Judge, both of the Native American Studies Program at USC Lancaster. In addition, the poster took a second place award in the State Archaeology Month poster competition at the Society for American Archaeology meeting this past April. So kudos to everyone involved with the 2008 poster, which not only got the word out about archaeology, but did so in a very informative and stylish way.

Meanwhile, George Stubbs, President of Hilton Head ASSC, has been exploring ways to place archaeology articles in high-profile journals within South Carolina. He has several innovative ideas, and we look forward to working with him to increase readership for archaeological research in the state.

Nowadays the computer and the internet have assumed center stage when it comes to outreach. At one time this simply involved uploading some pictures with accompanying text, but we are now in an era of three-dimensional imaging, live video feeds, and other amazing ways of giving people a sense of what it's like to be in the field or to closely examine an artifact. These tactics are ones that SCIAA has not pursued sufficiently, and they need to be added to our repertoire. I was reminded of the power of blogging by a project being carried out in Georgia earlier this summer. There, our colleague Dennis Blanton from the Fernbank Museum in Atlanta is working on a contact-period site with Spanish artifacts that he hypothesizes may have been visited by Hernando De Soto around the year 1540. Blanton had a very informative and entertaining daily blog that was even featured in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. Beside providing regular updates on their fieldwork results, his blog also raised many of the important issues archaeologists face in their daily field work that most people don't think about: Can I get another day out of this shirt without washing it? What kind of beer is best after a hot and humid day in the field?

As we ponder these kinds of weighty questions at SCIAA, we also continue to fret over how to best engage our wide audience of friends and supporters about all of the archaeology that is being carried out in the state—not just by SCIAA researchers, but by our colleagues as well. If you have any ideas about how we can better do that, I invite you to share those with me and other archaeologists at the Institute.

Our New Post Doc Fellow

This August we will be joined for a year by Dr. David Goldstein, the second of our post-doctoral scholars. Dr. Goldstein will be planning a conference for 2010 hosted by SCIAA and related to the theme of historical ecology. The conference is tentatively titled: *From Field to Table: Establishing Agroecological Systems for Reconstructing Resource Use and Management in Antiquity*. In brief, scholars worldwide will attend the conference and show how archaeological data can inform us about current debates over resource use and sustainability. As Dr. Goldstein notes in his proposal, archaeology can "play a significant role in our contemporary global dialogue on how societies deal with resource scarcity and manage resources in 'marginal' ecologies."

Dr. Goldstein has formal training as an ethnobotanist and received his PhD from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2007. His dissertation received the Outstanding Dissertation Award for that year from his university. Much of his research has taken place in Peru, where he has examined the impact of the fuelwood needs of metal and ceramic production on surrounding forest resources. He also is working with Dr. John Hageman on a project in Belize, exploring Late Classic Maya foodways and dietary practices. Dr. Goldstein currently is a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, and has been stationed in Lima, Peru for the last two years. We look forward to greeting him here in Columbia later in August.

Forest clearing through slash-and-burn agriculture in the tropics.

Fig. 2:The Great Pee Dee River at the site before commencing fieldwork (upper) and during the May/June project (lower). (*SCIAA photos*)

Mallory envisioned constructing some 50 light-draft, steam-powered gunboats at these inland facilities that would be guarded by the army and protected by their remoteness from the Union naval ships blockading the southern ports and patrolling the coastline.

Mars Bluff was ideally suited for that purpose. It was adjacent to the Wilmington-Manchester Railroad and a major ferry crossing, had good water communication with Georgetown and Charleston via Winyah Bay, and the surrounding terrain held vast stands of ash, oak, and pine necessary for a successful ship-building facility. The shipyard was to have 14 buildings, a saw mill, a forge, dry-dock, and slipways upon which to construct the vessels. While the shipyard was begun by Lt. William Dozier, the task of completing the facility and constructing the vessels fell to the yard's second commander, Lt. Van Renaisler Morgan, after Dozier was promoted to command the Navy's receiving vessel, *Indian Chief*, in Charleston. Morgan began construction of two torpedo boats, a stern-wheel steamer, a steam tender, and a gunboat, as well as other smaller craft. However, with his departure in August 1864, it was left to Lt. Edward Means, the base's third commander, to complete and launch the vessels.

The gunboat, christened CSS *Peedee*, was a twin-screw, steam and wind powered Macon-Class gunboat with a 7 ½-foot draft similar in design to CSS *Chattahoochee*, the remains of which reside in the National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus, Georgia (Fig. 1-See front page). The 150-foot long and 25-foot wide deck supported three large guns. At bow and stern were two Brooke rifled cannon, one firing a 6.4-inch shell, the other a 7-inch round. A 9-inch smoothbore Dahlgren was fitted amidships. All three guns were mounted on carriages that could pivot 180 degrees for a prodigious arc of fire. While the Brooke Rifles were considered by many to be the most accurate of the Civil War era naval artillery, naval officers often preferred smoothbore guns like the Dahlgren for naval engagements, which were frequently fought at close quarters. The smoothbores had greater smashing power, and the projectiles could be skipped over the surface of the water (ricochet fire) to great effect. Also, the smooth gun tubes were capable of firing a wide variety of projectiles, including round shot, shell, shrapnel, canister, and grape shot.

Fig. 3: The two iron propellers of CSS *Peedee* (left), and a propeller on the remains of CSS *Chattahoochee* (right). (*Left, SCIAA photo; right, courtesy of the National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus, GA*)

Peedee's compliment consisted of 91 officers and crew, two-thirds of that number filling out two shifts devoted to manning and maintaining the three guns. In the months leading up to the launching of *Peedee* much effort was expended procuring supplies for the vessel and coal for its steam power plant. Lt. Means repeatedly dispatched officers to Fayetteville and Georgetown to purchase coal and supplies. On December 7, 1864, Means dispatched Lt. Charles Hasker, a survivor of the first *Hunley* sinking, to Georgetown for coal and general supplies, and to arrange for a pilot to get the vessel downstream to Georgetown. However, when the gunboat hull was

Fig. 4: The USC/ECU Field Crew. (*SCIAA photo*)

Fig. 5: The USC Archaeological Geophysics field school crew. (*SCIAA photo*)

launched in January 1865, it was already too late to fully outfit the vessel and move it down the nearly 100 river miles to Winyah Bay. General Sherman's forces were moving northward through the state and by February were to take Georgetown, effectively blocking the gunboat's route to the Atlantic.

In early March, Lt. Oscar Johnston, *Peedee*'s commander, moved the gunboat upstream to Cheraw to cover General Hardee's troops crossing the Great Pee Dee River to join General Johnston's forces in North Carolina for what was to become the last major battle of the War. Thereafter, Johnston, turned the vessel (no mean feat in a river that was scarcely wider than the ship was long) and returned to Mars Bluff. On March 2, 1862, as Cheraw succumbed to Sherman's forces, Lt. Means was given the order to destroy the Navy Yard and vessels. Two weeks later, on March 15th, the guns of the *Peedee* were committed to the river and the gunboat floated downstream of the railway bridge, set afire, and blown up.

Seven months later, Acting Ensign Sturgis Center (USN) conducted an assessment of the Navy Yard, from which local inhabitants and contractors had liberated many usable materials including building materials, small boats, and machinery. Center did note, among other things, the remains of the *Peedee* lying downstream from the bridge, the steam tender and a torpedo boat sunk above the bridge with one unfinished vessel on the stocks. He also observed engines and boilers on the bank, along with two 24 pounder Dahlgren howitzers and the anchors for the *Peedee*.

At various times throughout the 20th century, when the river was exceptionally low, various groups recovered components of the gunboat, including the screws, in 1925, and machinery from the hull in 1954. The screws are on display in the Florence County Museum (Fig. 3), while the machinery and hull structure removed in the 1950s have disappeared and become the subject of local lore. In the last 50 years, several projects were initiated to locate and recover the *Peedee*'s guns. During the 1990s, a group named the Pee Dee Research and Recovery Team, headed by Ted Gragg and Bob Butler, received an intensive survey license from SCIAA, to conduct an underwater survey of the near-shore river bottom at the yard. Their purpose was to map the river bottom in front of the Navy Yard site and recover artifacts to exhibit in Gragg's South Carolina Civil War Museum to tell the story of the Mars Bluff Navy Yard. The team recovered numerous artifacts associated with Navy Yard activities, as well as logging operations before and after the Confederate occupation of the site. Their exhibition and site plans provide a tantalizing glimpse of the wealth of artifacts either discarded or eroded into the river from the bluff during the last 150-plus years. The plans also indicate the presence of two gun tubes identified as a Brooke Rifle and a 9-inch Dahlgren.

Fig. 6: USC field school students conducting resistivity across the property. (*SCIAA photo*)

Building on the results of the Pee Dee Research and Recovery Team, earlier this year, Amer and Leader received a grant from the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation to conduct further research at the site. The specific plans include:

- Locate and raise the guns jettisoned from CSS *Peedee*.
- Complete mapping of the river bottom (both surface and sub-surface) adjacent to the Navy Yard site by remote sensing and direct survey.
- Excavate significant cultural remains that will help tell the story of the Mars Bluff Navy Yard.
- Attempt to locate any remaining vessels associated with the site. Possibly the

Fig. 7: ECU students, faculty, and staff conducting shovel tests across the property. (*SCIAA photo*)

Fig. 8: One of the three friction primers excavated at the site. (*SCIAA photo*)

remains of a steam tender and torpedo boat remain submerged at or near the site.

•Re-locate the remains of the wreck below the bridge and verify/refute its identification as CSS *Peedee*.

•Conduct remote sensing and sub-surface testing of the terrestrial site to locate the building foundations and activity areas of the Navy Yard.

Staff of the Maritime Research Division (MRD) accomplished the underwater remote sensing phase of this work this spring using an array of survey equipment, including a sub-bottom profiler, to look at the sediment layers below the bottom and image any large cultural objects buried therein. As a result, we produced a magnetic and acoustic map of the river adjacent to the Navy Yard site. When it came time to physically investigate the Navy Yard and possible vessel(s) associated with the operation, SCIAA archaeologists enlisted the assistance of East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies for their background and reputation in working on War Between the States land and submerged sites and because their faculty and staff had recorded the remains of two Macon-Class gunboats, CSS *Chattahoochee* and an unfinished gunboat in Chicod Creek, North Carolina.

From May 26 through June 19, some 20 graduate students, staff, and faculty from the North Carolina school, under the direction of Drs. Larry Babits and Lynn Harris, conducted an underwater/terrestrial archaeology field school at the site and worked with SCIAA's two state archaeologists and MRD Division staff to complete these objectives (Figs. 4 and 5). The uncharacteristically high river water allowed us ample opportunity to investigate the terrestrial aspects of the site. The property owners graciously allowed us to not only stage the entire operation from their property, but acquiesced to our request to dig numerous test holes across the land to identify the layout of the Navy Yard.


Fig. 9: Christopher Amer and Joe Beatty recovering a 7-inch Brooke shell. (*SCIAA photo*)

The terrestrial component of the field school was tasked to East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies as a Master's thesis of Nolen Caudell. It was supported by a geophysical survey undertaken by the USC Archaeological Geophysics field school of the area.

The goal of the land investigation was to confirm the location of the Mars Bluff Navy Yard. The resistivity and gradiometer measurements taken by the eight USC students who took part in that field school provided a more finely defined area for testing (Fig. 6). The ECU team had initially planned to excavate 202 shovel test pits (STP) established within an ARC-GIS framework (Fig. 7). The interval of the STP's was set at 15 meters and was placed within an "L" shaped formation that followed the northern riverbank of the Great Pee Dee River. The eastern leg of the grid was placed over the location of the navy yard as designated in the South Carolina State Site Files (38 MA 22/91) and adjacent to the scuttled ordnance. The testing area covered approximately two acres.

The highest percentage of artifacts from STP's was associated with Native American Paleo/Archaic and a Woodland occupation including ceramics and lithics. The ceramic dates spanned from the Late Archaic to the Late Woodland, and their surface treatment included rope, cord, and net, paddle, simple, and punctuated, as well as two sherds of fiber-tempered coiled clay. Lithics recovered include large quantities of debitage and at least four biface blanks of the Palmer/Kirk/Taylor Tradition. The team recovered similar Native American artifacts from the underwater excavations, including a Yadkin-style point. Although prehistoric ceramics dominated the artifact collection, historic ceramics and glassware were recovered from both underwater and terrestrial contexts, including a post-1883 Johnson Brothers of Hanley ceramic sherd, and a Joseph Burnett cocaine product bottle, produced after 1847.

The resulting efforts of the archaeological geophysics class and the ECU field school detected several subsurface features that would merit Phase II excavations. Two specific areas of interest revealed by the testing and STP's


Fig. 10: 6.4-inch Brooke shell before (left) and after (right) de-concreting. (*SCIAA photo*)

Fig. 11: 'BROOKE' and the letter 'Q' (Richmond Naval Ordinance Works) stamped into the brass sabot that was bolted onto the rear end of the shell. (*SCIAA photo*)

Fig. 12: Inspector Lt. Robert Dabney Minor's initials 'Lt. R.D.M., and R.N.O.W. (Richmond Naval Ordinance Works) stamped in the forward band of a 6.4-inch Brooke shell. (*SCIAA photo*)

were tested at an interval of five meters and to an excavation depth of one meter. While the tests revealed the primary signatures were modern burn pits by the current and previous owners, along with a garden from the previous owner, the STP's yielded more pre-contact ceramics. The almost continuous use of the property from prehistoric to modern times has resulted in a very complex deposit.

Additional terrestrial work is planned and a LIDAR map of the entire area to an accuracy of 11 centimeters is being acquired. LIDAR mapping is able to show very small topographic changes at ground level, even through vegetation and trees. With any luck, it may help identify additional features associated with the shipyard in areas that were inaccessible to the field schools.

While safety considerations obliged us to curtail some diving activities and modify others during periods when the river was at, or near, flood stage, the two schools completed many of the project objectives. Two of the cannon, originally located by the Pee Dee Research and Recovery Team in the 1990s were reacquired, measured, and drawn to scale. The guns were positively identified as a 6.4-inch Brooke Rifle and the 9-inch Dahlgren. We have yet to locate the 7-inch Brooke Rifle.

The gun tubes committed to the river on March 15, 1865 were two Brooke rifles (6.4-inch and 7-inch) weighing in at 9,000 pounds and 15,000 pounds respectively. Each was cast at the Selma foundry (characteristic because of the double bands that all Selma guns sported) and delivered to the Mars Bluff Navy Yard on July 3 and 13 respectively. The 9-inch smooth-bore Dahlgren also weighed 9,020 pounds. The initials 'JMB' are stamped into one trunnion and likely represent the initials of John M. Berrien, who was ordnance duty officer in Pittsburg between 1862-64 before commanding the Navy Yard at Norfolk in 1865. The serial number on the breach suggests the gun was cast in Pittsburg in 1862 and was issued to a US Navy ship after mid-1862. The ship was then captured, abandoned, or sunk, and the Confederates recovered the tube. Only three US Navy vessels meet these qualifications: Unites States Navy ships *Eastport*, sunk in April 1864, *Indianola*, surrendered to Confederate forces on February 24, 1863, and *Southfield* that was rammed and sunk by the Confederate Ram, CSS *Albemarle*, in the Roanoke River during the Battle of Plymouth on April 19, 1864. All three vessels carried 9-inch smoothbore Dahlgren's.

Artifacts recovered include ring dogs and other artifacts associated with the logging industry, friction primers for the cannon (Fig. 8), and artillery shells. Three friction primers used to ignite a cannon's main charge were recovered. The three are virtually identical but differ from the typical artillery primer types used by army

Fig. 13: (Left) Jon Leader cleaning shelf in laboratory at Francis Marion University, (Right) Karen Phillips serves as the laboratory tech at Francis Marion University. (*SCIAA photo*)

Fig. 14: Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation Board members and Ben Zeigler join Christopher Amer and Larry Babits on a tour of the site. (SCIAA photo left to right: Larry Babits, Christopher Amer, Ben Zeigler, Dr. Frank B. Lee, Sr., Mark Buyck, Jr., Edward Floyd, Bradley Callicott (Executive Director), and Mark Buyck, III. front: Edward Buckhouse. (Not pictured, Mark Buyck IV. (*SCIAA photo*)

or navy artillery. As such, they represent either a Confederate variation, a foreign import run through the blockade, or a Confederate copy of a foreign import.

The team excavated and recovered two 7-inch and five 6.4-inch Brooke shells, weighing approximately 100 pounds and 58 pounds, respectively (Fig. 9). During the project, the projectiles were de-concreted and partially cleaned (Fig. 10). The 7-inch shells vary in length, but evidently contain no markings. However, the latter shells are particularly interesting for the information they carry. Each sabot of the 6.4' shells is stamped with the word 'BROOKE' and 'Q' (for Richmond) (Fig. 11). The forward band of each shell has 'LT. R. D. M' and 'RNOW' (Richmond Naval Ordinance Works) stamped into the iron (Fig. 12). Lt. Robert Dabney Minor commanded the Richmond Naval Ordnance Works until October 1, 1863, when he was assigned other duties for the Confederacy, continuing his work with ordinance, especially cannon and fuses.

The remaining objectives that could not be attempted or completed due to river conditions, including searching for any vessels associated with the Navy Yard, detailed mapping of the river bottom adjacent to the site, and assessment of the wreck thought to be *CSS Peedee*, will be revisited during a time when the river is more charitable towards us. In the meantime, the artifacts from the river are secure in a laboratory at Francis Marion University (FMU) (Fig. 13). Francis Marion University is the third partner in this endeavor. When the last of the three cannon is located, all three-gun tubes will be lifted from their watery graves and conserved in a purpose-built facility on the grounds of FMU. Current plans call for the Florence County Museum to exhibit the Mars Bluff Navy Yard/CSS *Peedee* materials to tell the story of the only Confederate inland navy yard in South Carolina and the gunboat built there that bore the river's name (Fig. 14).

Lora Holland. (SCIAA photo)

Underwater Archaeologist Lora Holland Leaves SCIAA

By Carlton Naylor

Lora Holland has resigned her duties as head of the Sport Diver Archaeological Management Program (SDAMP) to continue her career in maritime archaeology in San Francisco. As head of SDAMP, Lora also managed the Charleston Office of SCIAA's Maritime Research Division.

An outgrowth of the South Carolina Underwater Antiquities Act of 1991, SDAMP functions as a connection between the sport diver community and professional archaeologists. Through talks, seminars, field schools, and avocational projects, SDAMP shares archaeological principles with interested members of the public, both divers and non-divers. In addition, SDAMP issues and monitors South Carolina Hobby Diver Licenses. These licenses allow divers to collect artifacts and fossils from state waters on a recreational, non-commercial basis, provided the licensees report the items and the location of their finds.

Lora has a bachelor's degree in history from Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC, and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of West Florida in Pensacola. While head of SDAMP, she also assisted in managing several projects of the Maritime Research Division, including the Charleston Harbor Project, the underwater investigations of Smiths Lake Creek of the Allendale Paleoamerican Project, the Lake Marion Barge Project, the search for Lucas Vazquez de Ayllón's Capitana off Winyah Bay, and the Mars Bluff Confederate Shipyard Project, among others.

For more information about the Sport Diver Program, contact the Charleston Office at (843) 762-6105 or Carl Naylor at canaylor@sc.edu <mailto: canaylor@sc.edu>

Savannah River Research

International Outreach: The Southeast Prehistoric and Historic Landscapes Tour

By J. Christopher Gillam

From April 26 to May 1, 2009, I led a group of seven international scholars on a 1,000-mile (1,500-km) tour of South Carolina and Georgia to encourage cross-cultural studies and collaboration in the region. My colleagues and I are members of the international research project, "Neolithisation and Modernisation of East Asian Inland Seas (NEOMAP)," funded by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Kyoto, Japan, that held a symposium at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 25, 2009. Participants in the tour included NEOMAP Director, Junzo Uchiyama (RIHN), Shinji Ito (Kokugakuin University, Tokyo), Keisuke Makibayashi (RIHN), Shinji Seguchi (Shiga Prefectural Cultural Properties Protection Association, Japan), Carlos Zeballos Velarde (RIHN/Peru), Ilona Bausch (Leiden University, Netherlands), and Alexander Popov (Far Eastern National University, Vladivostok, Russia).

Fig. 2: Drs. Makibayashi and Ito examining Fig Island artifacts at SCIAA. (*Photo by Chris Gillam*)

In Georgia, the group visited Ocmulgee National Monument (Macon), Etowah Indian Mounds State Park (Cartersville), the Savannah Historic District, and Fort Pulaski National Monument. In South Carolina, they visited the Sea Pines Shell Ring (Hilton Head Island), Green Shell Enclosure (Beaufort County), Fig Island Shell Rings (Charleston County), Sewee Shell Ring and Clam Mound (Awendaw), Old Sheldon Church (Beaufort County), the Charleston Historic District and Charleston Museum, Middleton Place Plantation (Charleston County), the Congaree Vista District (Columbia), South Carolina State Museum (Columbia), and SCIAA (USC). Special thanks are extended to our friends and colleagues: SC Department of Natural Resources archaeologist, Sean Taylor, and the SC DNR management and staff; Robert Morgan, National Forest Service archaeologist, and staff of the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center; SCIAA Curator, Sharon Pekrul, and SCIAA hosts, Charlie Cobb and Terri Price.

Fig. 1: Drs. Makibayashi, Popov, Ito, Uchiyama, Zeballos, Seguchi, and Bausch at the Ocmulgee site, Macon, Georgia. (*Photo by Chris Gillam*)

Research

First Season at Palachacolas Town

By Charles Cobb

In AD 1689, the colony of Spanish Florida erected a small fort on the western bank of the Chattahoochee River in present-day Alabama. This outpost was an attempt to exert influence north of western Florida, where Spaniards and Indians were concentrated at Mission San Luis (in what is now Tallahassee, Florida) and a number of outlying missions and settlements. The new fort was built in the middle of Apalachicola Indian Territory, and its effects were opposite of what the Spanish intended. Rather than moving the imperial frontier northward while gaining new Indian allies, the presence of the garrison touched off a wholesale exodus of Native American groups from the lower Chattachoochee drainage. Many moved in a northeasterly direction with the hopes of engaging in lucrative trading partnerships with the growing English colony of Carolina.

Historical records indicate that one group of Apalachicola Indians settled on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River around 1707. They may have lived around Macon, Georgia after the 1689 migration for a period of time before arriving in what would become known as Palachacolas Town in Hampton County, South Carolina. This past May, SCIAA scholars conducted an archeological field school at Palachacolas Town, initiating a long-term project aimed at examining the wide movement of Indian peoples to the Savannah River in the early colonial era, as they hoped to take advantage of the English presence in Charleston and elsewhere along the coast. This project was made possible through funding by a National Science Foundation grant (BCS-0852686) to Charles Cobb, Chester DePratter, and Chris Gillam.

Our goals are to document the location and ethnic affiliation of the many towns that formed along the Savannah drainage, and to evaluate the impacts of migration and colonial trade on the diverse Indian societies who moved there. In addition to the Apalachicola, other known groups who relocated to the Savannah, include (but are not necessarily limited to) the Chickasaw, Shawnee, Yuchi, Apalachee, and Westo.

Fig. 1: Keely Lewis and Grant Hamilton take a breather while taking soil cores. (*SCIAA photo*)

The field school at Palachacolas Town was organized as a "Maymester" class. This is a period between the close of the regular spring semester and the start of the summer sessions, where students can take an intensive three-week course for full credit. Seven students and a number of volunteers joined SCIAA archaeologists Chester DePratter, Jim Legg, and myself on the dig, which took place on the Webb Wildlife Center, where the Department of Natural Resources served as gracious hosts for our stay.

To set the stage for our work prior to the field school, Jim Legg and Steve Smith provided a metal detector survey in a locality that had been identified in the 1990s as one likely occupation (probably a small farmstead) associated with the larger dispersed town of Palachacolas. This work yielded a large number of metal artifacts that pointed to a colonial occupation—lead shot, musket parts, buckles and buttons, and a sea of nails. Metal detecting assisted in the placement of five excavation blocks across the area.

Over the course of three weeks, our investigations yielded a number of exciting features and artifacts as our motivated students dug over 60 1 X 1 meter units. Our analyses of these materials indicate that after the Apalachicola left Palachacolas Town in 1715 as a result of the Yamasee War, this spot was probably re-occupied soon after by an English colonial farmstead. For example, we have a line of very deep post impressions we think was associated with an earthfast structure, a colonial house type characterized by widely spaced vertical posts set in the ground. These served as the primary-framing members of the construction.

If our interpretation of this set of post features is correct, it confirms evidence from elsewhere in the Southeast that colonial settlers were quick to take advantage of land cleared by Indians after they had vacated. So an interesting aspect of our research is that we may be able to

Fig. 2: A pit that was filled with glass bottles. (*SCIAA photo*)

identify both the final Native American group and the first European colonial group to occupy this locality. But it also makes our job a bit more difficult in that these different residents used many of the same kinds of material culture, ranging from glass bottles to ceramic pots to muskets. Unraveling this mixture will be one of our major challenges.

Nevertheless, we still have a lot to go on. Our Maymester excavations uncovered a number of pit features, large and small. Many of these may have served food storage or processing functions. Dr. Gail Wagner in the Department of Anthropology at USC will be conducting the botanical analyses of samples from these features, while Dr. Barnet Pavao-Zuckerman with the Arizona State Museum will carry out studies of animal bone. Together, they should be able to give us a sense of the diet and how foodways changed as multiple cultures came together along the frontier. Dr. Wagner tells us that her first glance at a soil sample from a hearth has found a pit from a peach, one of the first imported foods widely adopted by Native Americans.

We have moved enough dirt to find a number of postmolds, but not enough yet to determine whether these may be associated with Native American houses. One of our most interesting discoveries was an area where people were digging about one meter down to hit a layer of clay, which was then mined, presumably for purposes such as making pottery, coating the exterior of houses, and similar uses. This was a common practice among Indians throughout the Southeast, but European colonials were also known to take advantage of clay deposits for similar reasons. So we will have more work to do to determine the nature of the clay mining.

As with most first-season projects, we are facing many more questions than answers. But our ongoing laboratory work emphasizes how rich this site is. We have a large amount of native pottery, complemented by a wide variety of English ceramics, and even the occasional sherd from Spanish olive jars. As expected for this time period, the Indian reliance on stone tools had declined a great deal, but we are still getting a small number of scrapers and projectiles made from chert. Much of the broken bottle glass shows evidence of working, presumably as Native Americans converted shards to uses formerly carried out with stone tools. After iron nails, fragments of kaolin pipes are probably our most common artifact type. There are a small number of glass beads, which were avidly sought by Native Americans as ornaments for clothing and jewelry. Even cufflinks have shown up in our work. We do not know if these are associated with either the Indian or European occupation, but they—along with the beads—emphasize that trying to determine what people wore may be just as important as what they did, as we attempt to address the complex intersection of lives and cultures along the Savannah frontier. We eagerly look forward to returning next year to explore these important issues.

Fig. 3: Evidence of digging out clay for pottery manufacture and house construction. (*SCIAA photo*)

The 2009 Excavation Season at Topper Site

By Albert C. Goodyear

Fieldwork at the Topper site began in March 2009, starting with a preliminary two-week dig to prepare the site for the May-June season. This was in preparation for further excavations of what we call the Pleistocene terrace, the deepest artifact-bearing layer that was radiocarbon dated minimally to 50,000 years (Fig. 1). Controlled excavations into the terrace have been taking place since 2004 in an effort to determine the archaeo-stratigraphy of the deposit and to recover as many definitive artifacts as possible. Because of the high clay content, digging in the terrace has been a slow process. The soil has to be wetted and dug slowly with wooden instruments to carefully expose the chert artifacts. Accordingly, it takes two seasons to excavate a one-meter unit two meters down into the terrace.

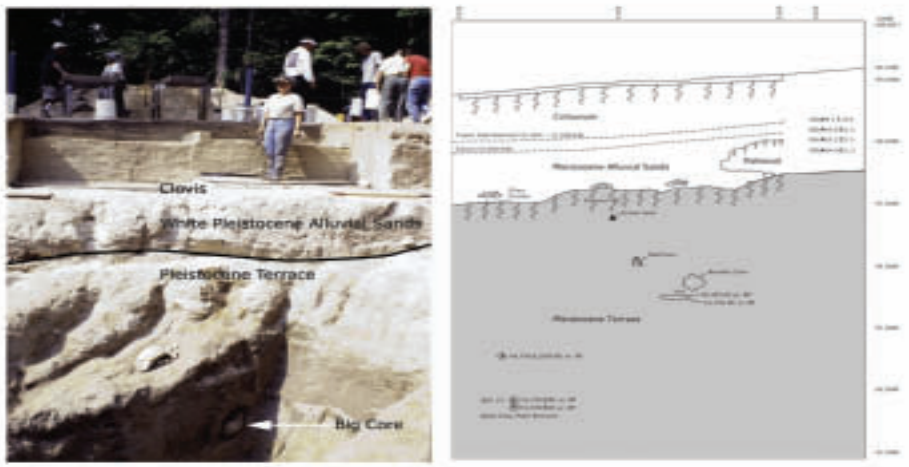


Fig. 1: Profile drawing showing geological layers and dates for Clovis down through preClovis zones at the Topper site. (SCIAA profile drawn by Meg Gaillard and SCIAA photo by Albert Goodyear)

Since it is clear that the terrace represents a sediment fining-up sequence where more sands are at the bottom and more clays and silts towards the top, such situations normally mean artifacts are denser toward the top of an alluvial unit. As sedimentation slows, human occupations and resultant artifacts tend to be concentrated stratigraphically toward the top. Based on soil morphology, we already knew this was the case since a well-developed argillic paleosol occurs in the top of the surviving terrace indicating a former stable surface (Fig. 1). To maximize digging time in the upper part of the terrace during the May season, the March dig was used to construct a sturdy wooden platform (Fig. 2) to allow people to safely excavate north of the backhoe trench (BHT 17). Tom Pertierra built the platform and provided great logistical support through his organization SEPAS, Inc. Tom and Ron Hollie designed it with assistance by J.L. Williams and volunteers Leon Perry and John Simpson. It allowed easy access to excavation units north of N246M.

During March, hand excavations were conducted in the Pleistocene alluvial sands that lie immediately over the Pleistocene terrace (Fig. 1). Excavation work in the Pleistocene sands was done by several experienced volunteers of the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey plus undergraduate students on spring break from the University of Tennessee's Department of Anthropology. These 12 students of Dr. David G. Anderson spent a

Fig. 2: Safety platform constructed in March 2009 to facilitate excavations in the upper Pleistocene terrace. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Beltman)

Fig. 3: Typical preClovis chopping implement from the base of the Pleistocene alluvial sands. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Beltman)

week learning how to excavate and were helpful in exposing the Pleistocene terrace for May. University of Tennessee graduate student Megan Hoak spent the week there helping to excavate and design her master's thesis analysis of Topper artifact stratigraphy and taphonomy. Besides the usual preClovis flake tools such as bend breaks, a classic "Topper chopper" was recovered at the base of the sands (Fig. 3). This piece had nearly all cortex removed as evidenced by several flake scars on both faces, and one edge had numerous unifacially detached flake scars creating a beveled chopping edge. Retouching of such choppers is responsible for depositing numerous small flakes with striking platforms and bulbs, which are found both in the Pleistocene sands and down in the terrace.

In the spring of 2009, the geochronology study of Topper and Big Pine Tree sites was finally published by the geoscience team of Waters, Forman, Stafford and Foss (Waters et al. 2009). This work was begun in 1999 and consisted of additional fieldwork in 2000, and 2002-2004. The basic geological stratigraphy of Topper has now been reconstructed with age estimates. Clovis (13,000 years ago) sits in the base of the colluvium that began forming in the early Holocene after the Savannah River cut down to its present meander system (Fig. 1). Based on OSL dates and pedology, the Pleistocene alluvial sands are minimally 14-15,000 years old and thus are preClovis in age. The upper preClovis Topper lithic assemblage sits in the bottom of that unit and may be considerably older. Based on radiocarbon dating, the top of the Pleistocene terrace is minimally 20,000 years old and potentially 50.000 or even older (Waters et al. 2009). The studies by the Waters team were funded by a SCIAA Robert L. Stephenson Fund grant, plus funds provided by the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition. More dating is needed to determine the absolute age of the preClovis occupation at Topper. Because of the general absence of charcoal, radiocarbon dating is unlikely to provide age estimates. New improved OSL dating may provide dates in the Pleistocene alluvial sands, which have heretofore resisted dating due to poor solar resetting.

Fig. 4: Paleoindian bifaces from underwater data recovery from the Big Pine Tree site, 38AL143, in 2008 and 2009; A, probable unfinished Clovis, B-D, Dalton points. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Beltman)

Fig. 5: Base of broken Clovis point preform from 2009 Hillside excavations at the Topper site. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Beltman)

As part of the continuing geoarchaeological studies of Topper, close interval sediment analysis is being conducted by Dr. Scott Harris of the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences at the College of Charleston. Scott and his student, Katie Luciano, are doing a laser-assisted particle size analysis of sediments from the current ground surface down to the 50,000-radiocarbon date level. Samples are collected every 5 centimeters except in the zone from Clovis down to the top of the terrace where they are sampled every 2 centimeters. The latter approach is to examine in detail the transition from the base of the Holocene colluvium through the Pleistocene alluvial sands. These studies are important for documenting the sediment character of the various geological units and for assessing potential fluvial energy represented in the Pleistocene alluvium.

The 2009 Allendale Paleoindian Expedition ran from May 4 through June 6. There was a good sign-up with over 80 people registering. Dredging at the

Fig. 6: Complete Clovis macroblade mended from three fragments from 2009 Hillside excavations at the Topper site. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Beltman)

Big Pine Tree site continued again this year during Weeks I and II. A significant portion of the site has eroded into Smiths Lake Creek. SCIAA's Marine Research Division oversaw the dredging again under the direction of Lora Holland, assisted by Carl Naylor and Joe Beatty. South Carolina hobby divers Doug Boehme, Drew Ruddy, and Ted Churchill gave good time and effort to help with the dredging. Tom Pertierra, logistics coordinator for SEPAS, Inc. oversaw equipment, surveying, and proveniencing. Bill Lyles and Bill Covington oversaw artifact sorting at the screening tables. Big Pine Tree is one of the richest prehistoric sites in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina starting with Clovis. Retrieval of diagnostic artifacts from the underwater portion has been an important way of building significant research collections for comparison with other sites in the region. The number of Clovis bifacial preforms is remarkable as well as Early Archaic notched points and unifaces, not to mention the dense Archaic and Woodland artifacts. A total of three Dalton points were dredged up in 2008 and 2009 (Fig. 4) adding to the previous 10 recorded from Big Pine Tree (Goodyear 1998). Currently, Big Pine Tree is the largest Dalton site known for the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. Interestingly, no Daltons have been found at the Topper site, which is about one and a half miles away. The absence of Dalton at Topper greatly adds to the stratigraphic integrity of the Clovis occupation there. More dredging is planned for the Big Pine Tree site in the 2010 expedition.

Simultaneous in Week I, excavations resumed in the Pleistocene terrace. Doug Sain was the Senior Supervisor again this year ably assisted by Supervisors Sarah Walters and Kara Bridgman Sweeney. The last three one-meter units down in the terrace were completed by Jean Guilleux and Carol Reed stopping at about the 95.35-meter level where ground water was encountered. At the end of the 2009 season, a total of 14 cubic meters had been hand excavated and water screened over eighth-inch screen. As planned, several one-meter units were started in the top of the terrace yielding numerous interesting flakes and bend breaks. The preservation of chert in the terrace is remarkable with some flakes looking like they were made today. The normal weathering prone Allendale chert remains intact in the moist and often water saturated sediments. Because of their highly siliceous condition coupled with the lower energy, back swamp deposits within which they rest, there is good reason to believe microwear analysis might be possible with these artifacts. The Pleistocene terrace is now set up for several more seasons of excavation in its upper meter.

Beginning in Week II, the third operation was started, that of the Clovis dig on the Hillside. Led by Senior Supervisor Ashley Smallwood of Texas A&M University, and assisted by University of Tennessee graduate student supervisors Erik Johanson, Robert Lassen, and Adam Russell, and University of Florida doctoral student Kara Bridgman Sweeney, excavations were resumed in unfinished 2008 pits. They were ably assisted by Bill Covington and Ernie Plummer who excavated their own units. Units still open on the upper firebreak were completed and Ernie Plummer excavated three units further up the hill to probe the northern limits of the Clovis occupation. Dense Clovis floors were found in all three units indicating the Clovis occupation still continues similar to that to the south. One classic Clovis point preform base was found (Fig. 5), broken by a flute resulting in a reverse hinge fracture. The reverse side shows the typical overshot flaking so well known for Clovis biface manufacture. A 13-centimeter long Clovis macroblade was also found in

Fig. 7: Examples of exotic Clovis lithics from the Topper site, 38AL23. (SCIAA photo by Daryl P. Miller)

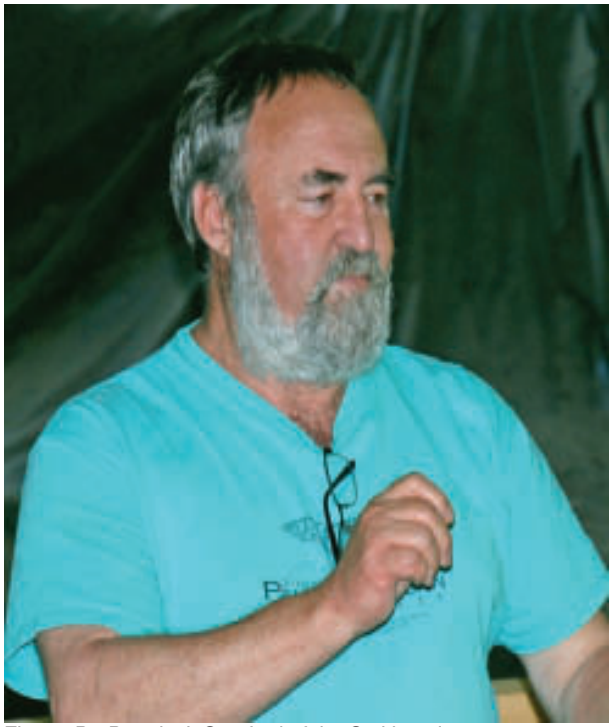


Fig. 8: Dr. Dennis J. Stanford of the Smithsonian Institution lecturing at the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition basecamp. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Belrman)

three pieces that mended together (Fig. 6). The fragments were found within 40 centimeters of each other spatially and within two centimeters vertically indicating integrity of the Clovis deposit. One two-meter square was excavated by Robert Lassen further east down the upper firebreak to probe the eastern extent of the Clovis occupation. The typical dense deposit of Clovis artifacts was also found there extending the site another 25 meters. The positive tests to the north and east add another probable 2,000 square meters of Clovis occupation to the Hillside. More work is planned for 2010 up hill to the northeast to test for possible changes in site function.

An interesting pattern that has been building for Clovis at Topper is the infrequent presence of exotic lithic artifacts, i.e., not made of the local Allendale chert. Five of the six artifacts (Fig. 7) are metavolcanics indicating a Piedmont origin. The sixth, a quartz crystal scraper, is ultimately from the Piedmont, though it might have been obtained from the Savannah River. The type of metavolcanics, such as dark fine-grained tuffs and rhyolites, suggests a North Carolina origin for these items (Goodyear et al. in press). Such exotics may be giving an indication of the mobility range of Clovis people in the Savannah River Valley and perhaps their relationship with Clovis peoples to the north.

Concurrent with every week was the field laboratory directed by Erika Shofner. Erika masterfully kept up with all artifact washing including the March dig findings and conducted basic analysis of the all the Holocene age materials. Judith Scruggs helped out with artifact sorting for the entire season aided by various volunteers each week. Megan Hoak was in residence for the entire season processing and sorting the Pleistocene materials related to her stratigraphic-taphonomic analysis for her master's thesis.

Several scholars visited the dig this year providing interesting evening lectures on related topics. Among these was Dr. Randy Daniel of East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C., speaking on the Pasquotank fluted point site in North Carolina. Dr. David G. Anderson spent several days with us and presented an update on his Paleoindian Data Base of the Americas (PIDBA). Dr. Frank Vento, geoscientist from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, toured the geological stratigraphy at Topper and spoke on his work on St. Catherine's Island, GA. where he has radiocarbon-dated paleosols at 22,000 and 13,000. Dr. Chris Moore, recently minted Ph.D. from East Carolina University and now archaeologist with SCIAA's Savannah River Program, lectured on the work he and Dr. Mark Brooks are doing with Carolina Bays in SC. And in the last week, Dr. Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian Institution provided an update on his research into the possible European Solutrean connection with the U.S. eastern seaboard and its connection with the origins of Clovis (Fig. 8). Dennis and his wife Dr. Pegi Jodry, also of the Smithsonian, spent several days with us reviewing the preClovis and Clovis excavations and artifacts (Fig. 9) and in general providing interesting insights and commentary on our Paleoamerican studies at Topper. They also had the opportunity to examine several private artifact collections from Georgia and South Carolina.

In the 2008 season, a new PBS program called TimeTeamAmerica spent a week with us filming for their series,

Fig. 9: Drs. Dennis Stanford and Pegi Jodry of the Smithsonian Institution viewing the Hillside Clovis excavations, June 2009. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Beltman)

Fig. 10: Archaeological staff and cast of the TimeTeamAmerica program at Topper, June 2008. (SCIAA photo by Meg Gaillard)

which began in 2009. On July 15th, Topper was the subject of a one-hour broadcast featuring the "guest archaeologists" of Time Team. (Fig. 10). This is the first one-hour national broadcast devoted to the site. The format of the program is that their team goes to different sites across America and joins in with a dig in progress filming their experience there as it unfolds over a 72-hour period. This approach allows the public to peer over the shoulder of the archaeologists and experience first hand the realities of fieldwork. The broadcast generated numerous calls and emails about the Topper site and will be helpful in our continued outreach to the interested public. Congratulations to Graham Dixon and Oregon PBS in this inaugural series.

As mentioned by Charlie Cobb in the last issue of Legacy, Tommy Charles has formally retired from the University. In June, a luncheon was held in his honor by SCIAA staff where his many contributions to our corporate work were acknowledged. On behalf of the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey, I presented him with a framed picture of classic South Carolina fluted points as drawn and colored by his colleague of many years Darby Erd (Fig. 11). Several of the points illustrated were originally recorded by Tommy as part of his statewide private collections survey. As a matter of fact, well over half of the 500 plus Paleo points in the state survey have been recorded by Tommy. Though retired, we expect to see him regularly in SCIAA where he has an office, and as he told me recently, he knows of at least 10 more fluted points that need to be recorded.

As is so often the case, the work of the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition at Topper and other sites on Clariant Corporation property is the beneficiary of several donors and volunteers who help make it a success. Over the years a number of volunteers have made themselves invaluable to our field and lab work by donating their time for the entire season. Among these are Ann and Bill Covington, Joan and Ernie Plummer, Carol Reed, Jean Guilleux, Judith Scruggs, Bill Lyles, and John and Alison Simpson. Thanks to all of them.

Clariant Corporation, owners of Topper and related sites, continues to be a valued friend to our program and the University as they allow and greatly facilitate our work on their land. Plant Manager, Eric Riden, and Daniel Bessenger, Human Resources Manager, were as usual cordial and accommodating hosts as were other Clariant employees. Yesterday's restaurant in Columbia through Darrell Barnes helped with supplies and storage, which is greatly appreciated. Bill and Jack Kneft of Colonial Packaging have continued to generously provide reclosable plastic bags that no dig can do without. And Jack Willhoit of American Systems of the Southeast, Inc. has provided printing of our Paleo art, which is much appreciated. To all of these and the numerous individuals who have signed up each year to help us accomplish this important work, a hearty thank you.

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Fig. 11: Tommy Charles receiving framed Paleoindian point art work from Al Goodyear in recognition of Tommy's valuable contributions to Paleoamerican studies in South Carolina. (SCIAA photo by Jessica Beltman)

Applied Research

Military Sites Program Finishes Projects

By Steven D. Smith

The Military Sites Program (MSP) at SCIAA, under my direction, has completed several multi-year projects and is gearing up this fall to continue research on two additional projects. Last Fall and Spring, I completed technical reports of the archaeological work at the Revolutionary War Battle of Camden and test excavations at two Francis Marion sites—Wadboo Plantation and Dunham's Bluff, South Carolina.

The Battle of Camden took place on August 16, 1780, and has been described as the worst defeat of an American army during the war. Research at Camden Battlefield, which began in 2003, has focused on defining the battlefield and attempting to learn how the various American and British units maneuvered during the battle. It began with interviews of relic collectors who described their collections and the location of their finds. Based on this research, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation received a grant from Save America's Treasures to do additional archaeological research and reconstruct the battlefield. The MSP returned to the field in 2006, but postponed work to coincide with a major controlled burn in 2007, which exposed as much as one-third of the battlefield. From that point, the MSP conducted systematic metal detecting survey of 36.68 acres of the battlefield and collected 1,165 battle-related artifacts. These artifacts were plotted on a two-foot contour map of the battlefield. The results confirmed the initial locations of the British and American lines and provided good evidence of the flow of battle and routs of retreat of the American forces. The full report is available for downloading at the SCIAA-MSP website http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/military-research.html.

Wadboo Plantation, located in Berkeley, County, South Carolina, was the site of one of Francis Marion's camps from August of 1782 through December 1782, when Marion said goodbye to his troops and retired from the war. At the end of August of 1782, a detachment of British Dragoons attacked Marion but were defeated. The MSP conducted systematic metal detecting survey and test excavations at Wadboo Plantation in 2007, sponsored by the Francis Marion Trail Commission. The components of Marion's campsite were mixed by years of plowing with an earlier slave quarter occupation, which made clearly defining each occupation problematic. Nevertheless, the MSP was able to define the battlefield, campsite, and location of the main plantation house.

James Legg and Gretchen Huggins reveal a slave quarter house at Wadboo Plantation. (SCIAA photo by Steven D. Smith)

Finally, the MSP conducted another survey and testing project at Dunham's Bluff, the site of a campsite associated with Francis Marion's occupation of Snow's Island. This camp is located across from Snow's Island and was probably constructed in early 1781. The presence of a redoubt was also confirmed. Like Wadboo, some of the components were mixed with a farmstead, probably Ebeneezer Dunham's farm, but the artifacts from the site in combination with other Francis Marion sites are revealing much about the material culture of partisans and militia during the American Revolution. This research was sponsored by the Francis Marion Trail Commission also, along with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Dunham's Bluff research will continue as part of my dissertation research on the archaeology of partisan communities and Snow's Island.

Two new projects are on going: one is continuing research in the Snow's Island area and another is a Civil War mapping project in Jasper and Colleton Counties. Both of these projects are sponsored by the American Battlefield Protection Program. The MSP is 100% funded by grants and gifts and welcomes contributions. It is especially seeking funding for research on Snow's Island as part of my dissertation topic.

Chris Clement Joins SEARCH, Inc.

By Steven D. Smith

After 15 years as Co-Director of the Applied Research Division (ARD) of SCIAA, Chris Clement is moving on to join Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH), a full-service private cultural resource contracting firm with offices throughout the nation. Chris joined ARD in Louisiana in 1994 when it was conducting survey work for Fort Polk. Since then he has worked throughout South Carolina and has been the main Principal Investigator for work at Fort Jackson. He also developed interest in prehistoric research in the Upstate and conducted two projects.

Chris received his Ph.D. in 1995 from the University of Florida; his dissertation was on a historic sugar plantation on Tobago. But at SCIAA he got into prehistoric and protohistoric sites and most of his research has been in that area, especially the Early Archaic. He was the Principal Investigator or co-Principal Investigator for 32 projects with ARD, and wrote or co-wrote 31 reports. He served for a long time as SCIAA's computer liaison with the University, was Secretary and Vice President of the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists, and was awarded numerous SCIAA research grants. He is currently Co-Editor of the Journal of Caribbean Archaeology.

Chris Clement enjoying a break in the field. (SCIAA photo)

Tom Clement, Chris' son, learns to shovel test and screen. Photo courtesy of Chris Clement)

Chris is known for consistently producing clean draft reports, beginning with untangling a monster of a first draft for the first Fort Polk survey. From that point, clients never had much more to say other than, "Print it." He was also known for his acerbic wit, Yankee demeanor ("its New Hampshire"), and snappy dress. He won't be going far, as he will be living in Columbia while working for SEARCH. Chris will be sorely missed, but we do need the space.

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Office of the State Archaeologist

The Bridge To Nowhere: History Detectives and the Office of the State Archaeologist Team Up to Solve a Mystery

By Jonathan Leader

One of the truly enjoyable parts of working with the PBS series History Detectives is the collaboration. The questions they are asked to solve are never easy and always tie in many allied colleagues and experts.

Enter the History Detectives and their collaborative format. Elyse Luray assembled a team to review David's work, add to it from sources he was unable to access, and then truth it on the ground.

Assembling the equipment with Elyse. (SCIAA photo)

The Bridge to Nowhere was a fine example of this reality.

David Brinkman, a local avocational historian, had been researching the ruined bridge abutment remains in his yard for some time. Back in 2006, we took an in-depth look at the remains in the hopes of dating them. David was thinking that they might be the remnant of the bridge destroyed by Confederate forces in the face of Sherman's advance in 1865. Alas, the analysis did not support this conclusion. Undeterred, David continued his research.

Three years later David had a much more solid foundation built upon historic maps he had researched at the USC Caroliniana Library, the Collections of the Department of Archives and History and online. The focus had shifted upriver in the vicinity of the current Broad River Road Bridge. He knew that he was close, but how to prove it to a scientific certainty?

The first and second part ran through familiar territory. Joe Long, curator at the Confederate Relic Museum, was enlisted for his knowledge of the times. Tracy Power and Patrick McCawley at the Department of Archives and History, were essential for the documents and maps. The sticking point was the third part, proving the solution on the ground.

Fortunately, Elyse and History Detectives had a similar situation come up in 2006 when they were trying to authenticate the 71st Highlander cartridge bag cartouche found in North Augusta, SC. They turned to the Institute's archaeological expertise to prove the object's authenticity. I used my skills in archaeometallurgy to show that the artifact was from the time period in question and had come from an environment guaranteed to ensure its survival until being found by the licensed sport diver. It was therefore natural that Elyse would turn to me again to provide the archaeology and final proof to the question.

Using the maps and documents assembled from Elyse and the team, I

Graduate students Dwight Jones (Left) and Ben Johnson (Right) move the gradiometer over the flood to the pontoon area as a nervous Jon Leader looks on. (SCIAA photo)

Jon Leader running the gradiometer in the woods. (SCIAA photo)

decided to use geophysics to answer the question. The probable areas for the bridge burned by the Confederates and the pontoon bridge built by the Union forces to cross the Broad River were grossly identified. The bridge was burned and subjected to artillery barrage and the pontoon bridge saw up to 30,000 men, horses, and wagons cross in a very short period of time. In both instances the massive assault sustained by the areas should be discernible by specialized, sensitive equipment. In this case, the choice was to use a Bartington gradient magnetometer and a Mala ground penetrating radar.

Quickly assembling a group of volunteer field workers from both the community and the Anthropology Department's students, the team tackled the areas. Almost immediately, a remnant of the original road leading to the 1860s bridge was found. This was followed by the exact position of the bridge as shown by the surviving wagon ruts leading to the edge where the span once stood. The miracle was that the work that built the current bridge and road way access for fisherman had come very close to obliterating any sign of the 1860s bridge.

The team then went to work on the pontoon bridge location. Remarkably, not only was the original access road found, but also the staging area for the Union wagons as they waited their turn to cross the pontoon bridge was recovered. In the course of these discoveries, I gave Elise a quick course in the use of the equipment. This was a personal first for her and for History Detectives.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Mala Equipment for donating the use of ground penetrating radar for the project. Grateful appreciation is extended to the volunteers: Matthew Allgrim, Carmen Beard, Ben Johnson, Dwight Jones, James Legg, and Stephanie Sapp without whom this project could not have been accomplished as quickly or as well.

The Bridge to Nowhere is the season finale and will air on September 7 twice. Please check the "History Detectives" web site at http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/ for more information.

Setting up the shot for the Bridge to Nowhere on site. (SCIAA photo)

Fig 10: Setting up the shot for the Bridge to Nowhere on site. (SCIAA photo)

18th Annual South Carolina Archaeology Month 2009

By Nena Powell Rice

The SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina is finalizing the coordination of the 18th Annual South Carolina Archaeology Month to be held in October 2009. The fall event honors South Carolina's African heritage with various programs and events planned in the fall throughout the state. Each year the month-long event produces a topical poster focusing on current research in the Palmetto state. This year's theme is titled *Expressions of African American Culture*. The editor of the poster and articles will illustrate the back is Nicole Isenbarger, a historical archaeologist at Brockington & Associates in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. The cover will feature several different images that represent the material cultural expressions of African American history, such as ironworking, sweetgrass basketmaking, production of traditional Colonoware, and a Freedman's cottage. The theme of the articles on the back of the poster will focus on the cultural influences that African American cultture has had on South Carolina. Articles cover their marketing activities within the internal markets that the enslaved established, yard activities on a 19th century plantation, the architecture of the Freedman's cottages in Charleston, and post-emancipation settlements on James Island.

This photo is an example of a Freedman's Cottage that will be one of the images in the front of the poster. (Courtesy of Brockington & Associates)

Archaeology Month activities will begin on October 3, 2009, with a major event, the 22nd Annual South Carolina Archaeology Field Day, to be held at Walnut Grove Plantation near Spartanburg, South Carolina. This year the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) will partner with Walnut Grove Plantation during their annual event, which include local reenactors of the South Carolina Rangers who will be available to demonstrate camp cooking techniques of the Revolutionary period as well as fire making skills and other military survival techniques. The ASSC will have several demonstrators who will illustrate the African American culture through time.

For a list of scheduled events in connection with Archaeology Month and Archaeology Field Day, visit the SCIAA website: http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa or the ASSC website: www.assc.net. Also, contact Sean Taylor (taylors@dnr.sc.gov) Archaeologist at the SC DNR Heritage Trust Program, at (803) 734-3753 for more detail information on Archaeology Field Day, and contact Nena Rice (nrice@sc.edu) at the SCIAA at (803) 576-6573 for further details on South Carolina Archaeology Month. Another website of archaeological interest in South Carolina is that of the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists http://coscapa.org.

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